

From: David S. Long
To: microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,attorney.gener...
Date: 11/21/01 6:40pm
Subject: RE: Microsoft Judgment

As a longtime computer user and someone personally affected by Microsoft's business practices, I urge you to rethink acceptance of the current judgment. Specifically, I am referring to Microsoft being "forced" to donate \$500 million to schools and then allowing them to give their software away. This action only encourages the monopolistic practices that Microsoft has been using for years. As you know, one of the ways a company exploits a monopoly is by controlling price. Most people might think the company achieves this by charging a high price for their products, but they can also do it by charging very little or nothing. By allowing Microsoft to give away hundreds of thousands of copies of its software, worth millions of dollars, the government is allowing them to compete with an unfair advantage. Microsoft is required to adhere to a verdict that only increases its market share and does not allow other companies to compete. Who in their right mind would buy product "X" for \$100 when they can get product "MS," normally costing \$400+, for free? And don't forget the operating system. If a school, normally short on funds, buys new equipment that requires training, productivity software, the operating system, and other items, why would they buy any equipment that didn't use this free software and free service? Microsoft doesn't sell PC hardware, but, by default, they require users to purchase PC equipment to run their OS. Apple, for example, cannot compete because they cannot sell these schools anything, hardware or software, that can take full advantage of the free Microsoft solution. If Microsoft is providing millions of dollars in training for Microsoft products, why would they want to buy Apple products, and pay for Apple training and support?

Please help us who have small businesses that support the "other" platform. Don't encourage the further development of the Microsoft monopoly.

Sincerely,

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v.2 Consulting specializes in Macintosh support as well as cross-platform integration. We believe IT support should be non-intrusive and easy to understand. v.2 Consulting has served the print & web publishing, film production, graphic & industrial design,

audio recording, advertising, and video communities since 1999.

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